

REMARKS

This amendment is being presented in response to the Examiner's action of April 27, 2004. The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-5 have been rejected. Claims 3 and 5 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, containing the limitations of their base claims, and any intervening claims, and if the rejections under 35 USC §112 there against were overcome.

In the response, claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 3 and 5 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 1. Claims 2 and 4 were amended to depend from what has been indicated to be an allowable base claim 3. Newly presented claims 6 and 7 correspond to previously presented claims 2 and 4, and have been presented herein depending from what has been indicated to be an allowable claim 5. Claims 2-5 were additionally amended to overcome the §112 second paragraph rejection thereagainst. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been entered in these amendments. In light of the amendments and the following detailed arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph for being indefinite. Specifically, the claims were indicated to include improper *markush* claim language, specifically using the term “or” instead of the term “and”. The claims have been amended herein to use what is believed to be proper *markush* terminology. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

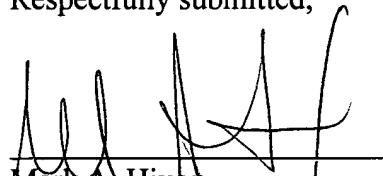
Claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Torre (US 5,684,120) in view of EP 0 885 930. As noted above, claim 1 has been cancelled, and the

subject matter thereof has been incorporated in claims 3 and 5, which were indicated as being allowable. Claims 2 and 4 now depend from what are believed to be allowable base claims. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot, and its reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

In view of the above it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 3 and 5 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2 and 4 are believed to be allowable based, at least, upon their dependence from an allowable base claim.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, a favorable reconsideration of the present application and the passing of this application to issue with all claims allowed are courteously solicited. If the Examiner wishes to modify any of the language of the claims in an effort to move the application towards allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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